

that greater numbers of people are in need of housing and other support services, for longer periods of time.

Housing instability is directly related to a person's struggle to maintain a living wage. For many individuals, HIV/AIDS affects their ability to work and keep steady income. For others, poverty and other health problems force them into homelessness or put them dangerously at risk of evictions or foreclosures. Among people with HIV/AIDS surveyed for the plan, more than half reported incomes below the federal poverty level and over one-third reported being homeless at some point in their lives. Participants of AFC's survey and other local surveys report insufficient income as a leading contributor to housing instability.

The region's affordable housing crisis contributes to housing instability among people with HIV/AIDS. Studies show that there are 245,000 low-income renters and 115,000 low-cost rental units in the Chicago area, leaving two low-income renters for every unit of affordable housing. Rents in the Chicago area are rising faster than the national average, and demolitions and redevelopment projects are depleting the region's stock of affordable housing, including thousands of government-subsidized housing units.

Government funding for AIDS housing assistance and services has not kept pace with community needs. Unless extended, state and federal subsidized housing programs expiring in the next five years will leave thousands of previously affordable apartments subject to market-rate rents. In addition, decreased federal funding for subsidized housing vouchers, more commonly known as Section 8, has so severely restricted the program that prospective aid recipients are turned away or told to wait several years in order to enroll.

#### LESSONS FOR PLANNERS AND PROVIDERS OF AIDS HOUSING SERVICES

The plan draws on input from people with HIV/AIDS, AIDS advocates, and service providers to assess the effectiveness of the AIDS housing service system in metropolitan Chicago. The following are recommended strategies for improvements:

Expand AIDS housing and support services across the region for men and women who are poor, chemically dependent, mentally ill, or recently released from correctional facilities. In its analysis, the plan identifies trends among new cases of HIV/AIDS that signal emerging issues for the AIDS housing service system. In particular, the plan found that the system is ill prepared to serve clients with chemical dependency, mental illness, and histories of incarceration. In addition, a disproportionate number of women, people of color, and people living in poverty are affected by HIV/AIDS. These demographic trends are resulting in service gaps along the housing continuum of care, and require additional resources to address them. The plan's consumer survey and other local surveys provide crucial guidance in designing services appropriate to meet clients' needs.

Expand services in areas of high need to combat geographic disparities that persist in the availability of AIDS housing services. The most dramatic increases in numbers of new AIDS housing units since 1995 have taken place on the south and west sides of Chicago and in DuPage, Lake, and Will counties, where no AIDS-specific housing services existed previously. However, geographic disparities among certain types of housing services still exist.

Make an ongoing commitment to community planning and assessment to inform the

use of scarce AIDS housing resources. Service providers and other stakeholders identified a lack of ongoing planning across the AIDS housing service system. They recommend that coordination of AIDS housing services across funding streams be increased to avoid limiting potential innovations and efficiencies in the provision of client services. Cross-collaboration between services funded by the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), the Ryan White CARE Act, and other sources was specifically identified as crucial to maximize available AIDS housing resources. Increased collaboration between AIDS service providers and correctional health, public aid, and substance abuse treatment providers was also identified as a pressing need.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

The plan calls on federal, state, and local lawmakers to expand government support for AIDS housing services. In particular, the plan calls for increased funding for: State and federal short-term rental assistance programs designed to promote housing stability by assisting individuals to meet a short-term financial crisis, such as unmet healthcare, utility, housing-related costs, or temporary job displacement; Federal transitional housing services for those who have been recently released from correctional institutions, hospitals, and treatment facilities; Long-term subsidized permanent housing with off-site supportive services for those capable of living independently, but on fixed incomes; Local, state, and federal programs designed to stimulate development of affordable housing and auxiliary support services.

#### HOW TO ACCESS AND USE THE PLAN

AFC and members of its Housing Committee will use the plan to advocate for increased public and private spending on housing services and expanded community involvement in the planning and organization of AIDS housing services. AFC and Housing Committee members will pursue strategies to implement each of the plan's recommendations and will carefully monitor and assess progress meeting these goals.

The plan is a rich resource of information for service providers, policymakers, and service planners about the need for and availability of AIDS housing services. Extensive feedback from HIV-positive people on service needs and preferences provides an especially important perspective for AIDS service providers. The plan is an excellent resource for policymakers and students about the continuum of housing services established to respond to the needs of people with HIV/AIDS.

The plan is available for download at AFC's website: [www.aidschicago.org](http://www.aidschicago.org). Sections of the plan are also available separately. To receive a printed version of the plan, contact AFC Housing Manager Norma Samame at 312-922-2322 ext. 504 or at [nsamame@aidschicago.org](mailto:nsamame@aidschicago.org).

#### ABOUT THE AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

Established in 1985 to provide central leadership in the fight against the epidemic, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago promotes sound HIV/AIDS public policy, funds HIV/AIDS prevention and care projects, and, through its 135-member Service Providers Council, helps to coordinate the delivery of essential HIV/AIDS services.

## SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT MEN AND WOMEN OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF DELIVERING THE MAIL DURING THIS TIME OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 257 and to honor the outstanding service provided by the men and women of the United States Postal Service since the terrorist attacks of September 11. I wish to express special appreciation for all postal workers and their dedication to the mission of the Postal Service during this time of national crisis. Even as our homeland was besieged by terrorist attacks and devastating tragedy the United States mail service continued.

United States Postal Service workers are the unsung heroes of this nation. Come rain, snow, sleet, and now the threat of anthrax exposure our mail continues to be delivered with minimal interruption. Two postal workers have given their lives, four workers have contracted inhalation anthrax, and another three have contracted cutaneous anthrax and still our U.S. mail delivery continues. Who would have ever thought that these conscientious postal workers who were committed to doing their jobs would be front line warriors in this war against terrorism?

It is our duty in the Congress to ensure the safety and well being of these courageous and patriotic postal workers, just as we ensure the safety and well being of other federal employees.

As a nation we must salute the fine work of our postal workers and not take for granted their commitment to the mission of our United States Postal Service.

## NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 16, 2001*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, today I join a number of my colleagues in urging President Bush to address the severe shortage of inspectors along the Northern Border. This shortage is detrimental to individuals and businesses that operate across the border, and leaves our nation vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

The Northern Border is currently not secure. There are too many understaffed and unmanned points of entry to maintain security. While there are 128 points of entry along the Northern Border, only 64 are staffed 24 hours a day. When unmanned, many are "secured" simply by placing cones or signs in the road. That is hardly an adequate deterrent.

Although the Northern Border accounts for a little more than 40 percent of the points of entry into the United States, only 14 percent of